

plants. This supplement is put out to give information as to the plants that have been discovered in Ohio since 1874, and also to call forth additional information preparatory to the publication of a complete revised catalogue. The supplement adds 177 species of Phanerogams.

THOSE WHO are interested in the relation of flowers and insects will welcome the list of books, memoirs, etc., on the fertilization of flowers for the period 1883-9, a continuation of the list published in 1883 by D'Arcy Thompson.¹ Such bibliographies are of great value and Mr. J. MacLeod has placed the workers in this field under obligations.

OPEN LETTERS.

Mounting plants.

The recent excellent note of Theo. Holm on this subject prompts me to say a few words, more especially in regard to mounting grasses.

In the collection at our college the plants are held to the sheets by means of stout strips of gummed paper, often a quarter of an inch wide, or even more for securing heavy specimens. It has recently been my privilege to turn over nearly all the grasses in the herbarium of Harvard University, where they are secured to the sheets by means of glue. If well done, and the plants are not too thick and heavy, and not sent to and fro by mail or express, the glue holds the smaller, thinner specimens very well, but those with heavy culms or rootstocks spring loose in many cases, and then are usually to be "patched up" by pasting on gummed strips. The glue process would tend to prevent theft of small fragments or spikelets of valuable specimens, but it also makes it difficult to turn over or partially over a spikelet or leaf blade or sheath to observe a ligule or other part not mounted right-side out. Quite frequently specimens mounted in this way are considerably disfigured by surplus glue, and patches of the coarse paper upon which the specimen was placed while the glue was applied are left sticking here and there, like morbid tufts of a peculiar pubescence. For working specimens of grasses and sedges and similar plants, my experience leads me to favor decidedly the method of pasting by means of strips of paper. Happily, there is a rapidly growing tendency among botanists of our country to collect, preserve, and mount specimens which are more complete than those usually put up by the older botanists of a generation or two ago. Such collectors as Pringle, whose specimens have found their way into the herbaria of many botanists, have served to stimulate better work. There is another thing which does not yet receive the attention it deserves, viz.: the collecting and preservation of surplus flowers, fruits, seeds, spikelets, etc., loosely placed on most sheets and held by an envelope or folder. This whole subject with an abundance of illustrations would be an admirable one for some thorough and neat enthusiast to present to the botanical club of A. A. A. S. or even to the section of biology.—W. J. BEAL, *Agricultural College, Mich.*

¹Separately printed from the *Botanisch Jaarboek*, tweede Jaargang (1890) pp. 195-254.